

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated June 24, 2008, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on September 24, 2008. Applicants have attached a Petition for a Two Month Extension of Time, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136, extending the statutory period until November 24, 2008. Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the above noted amendments and the following remarks in response to the Office Action.

Applicants have amended claims and respectfully submit that support for such amendments can be found in at least the examples.

OBJECTIONS:

Claim 13 stands objected to. Applicants have corrected typographical errors and respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS:

Claims 1-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Office Action states that “[f]or the purpose of the examination, the examiner will assume the feedstock comprising olefins and an aliphatic hetero compound.” Applicants have amended the claims to clarify terms and also point out that the feed stream is formed primarily of the aliphatic hetero compound, not olefinic compounds, as taught by the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-7 and 11-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publ. No. 2003/0062291 (*Dath*) in view of U.S. Patent Publ. No. 2003/0181777 (*Powers*) and U.S. Pat. No. 6,222,087 (*Johnson*).

Dath teaches a process for cracking olefins (*i.e.*, compounds having the formula C_nH_{2n}) in a hydrocarbon stream into lighter olefins. The feedstock and effluent have substantially the same olefin content by weight. *See*, paragraph 38. In contrast, the pending claims recite passing a hydrocarbon feedstock including hydrocarbons consisting essentially of C_1 to C_6 aliphatic hetero compounds selected from the group consisting of alcohols (*i.e.*, compound including one or more hydroxyl groups), ethers (*i.e.*, compound including two hydrocarbon groups linked by an oxygen atom), carbonyl compounds (*i.e.*,

functional group composed of a carbon atom double bonded to an oxygen atom) and mixtures thereof through a reactor to produce an effluent including propylene. *Dath* does not teach, show or suggest contacting an aliphatic hetero compound as claimed with the claimed catalyst.

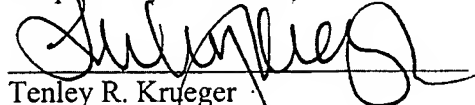
Powers teaches thermally cracking heavy olefins with a minor molar amount of at least one oxygen containing hydrocarbon. See, paragraph 10. In contrast, the amended claims require a feedstream including hydrocarbons consisting essentially of the C₁ to C₆ aliphatic hetero compounds.

Johnson is noted. However, it is believed that *Johnson* is no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the Office Action. Therefore, it is believed that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to this Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-7 and 11-22 stand provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 23-42 of copending Pat. Appl. Ser. No. 10/569,240 in view of U.S. Pat. Publ. No. 2003/0062291 (*Dath*). Applicants have submitted a terminal disclaimer herewith, thereby obviating the rejection.

In conclusion, Applicants submit that the references cited in the Office Action, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the claimed features. Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Respectfully submitted,



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